

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF GUARDIANS

OF THE

Chicago Reform School

TO THE

Common Council of the City of Chicago,

FOR

THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31st, 1871.

CHICAGO:

GUILBERT & CLISSOLD, PRINTERS.

122 La Salle Street.

1871.

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DEACCESSIONED BY
CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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OFFICERS.

Board of Guardians.

Term expires 1871.

E. H. SHELDON.

J. H. GRAY.

Term Expires 1872.

HON. MARK SKINNER.

EDWIN S. WELLS.

Term Expires 1873.

E. S. WADSWORTH.

G. H. LAFLIN, *vice* J. H. HOLLISTER, M. D., *resigned*.

GEORGE TAYLOR, *ex-officio*.

President.

E. S. WADSWORTH.

Secretary.

J. H. GRAY.

Superintendent.

ROBERT TURNER.

Physician.

JOSEPH P. ROSS, M. D.

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GUARDIANS' REPORT.

To the Honorable the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Chicago :

The Board of Guardians of the Chicago Reform School have the honor to lay before you the accompanying report of the Superintendent, Principal Teacher, and Physician, for the year ending March 31st, 1871.

The tabular statements contain the usual amount of information in regard to commitments, workshops, expenditures, educational and health departments. We especially call your attention to the remarks made by our Superintendent in reference to boys being allowed to graduate up to a certain standard in crime, before they can be sent to the School. The criminal statistics of the city show that juvenile delinquency is largely on the increase. The tendency to excuse and sympathise with youthful offenders is too often accepted by them as a license to do worse.

We but reiterate the words of the Superintendent when we say, that if the Supreme Court persists in calling our School a prison, (against which we protest,) then transfer the boys from the Jail and Bridewell, so that they may also reap the advantages which this institution affords, for by incarcerating them in the Jail or Bridewell dooms them to a life of degradation, to allow them to run at large and prac-

tice petty crimes until more matured, would only tend to qualify them for the Penitentiary. It is just here where the Reform School is needed, to restrain the liberty of the youth, where moral, educational, and other reformatory influences may be brought to bear, preventing the practice of petty crime, and developing in them the elements of a true and noble manhood.

The management of the Institution is under the control of the same officers as at the date of last report. The earnings are more and the expenditures less than last year, and the physical and moral results have been, we think, equal to any former year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. S. WADSWORTH, President.

J. H. GRAY, Secretary.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Board of Guardians:

GENTLEMEN,—I herewith submit the usual statistical tables, showing in detail the condition of the School for the year ending March 31st, 1871.

Total number of boys received into the Institution since its opening, Nov. 30, 1855,..... 1,251

Number in School April 1st, 1870..... 203

“ committed during year,..... 52

“ re-committed “ “ 1

“ returned as runaways,..... 8

“ “ on ticket,..... 1

Total number in School during year,..... 265

Number sent out from School during year, 84

“ died,..... 2

“ remaining in School April 1st, 1871,... 179

Total,..... 265

Those received during the year on commitment were as follows:

Committed by parents,..... 4

“ “ Superior Court,..... 39

“ “ Circuit “ 1

“ “ Criminal “ 9

Total,..... 53

Number committed each month as follows:

April, 1870,.....	1
May, "	3
June, "	8
July, "	8
August, "	12
Sept., "	5
October, "	4
Nov., "	3
Dec., "	2
Jan., 1871,.....	1
Feb., "	1
March, "	5
Total,.....	53

Those committed confessed to

Burglary,.....	8
Grand Larceny,.....	5
Petit Larceny,.....	20
Running away from home.....	5
Incorrigible,.....	3
Vagrancy,.....	6
Homeless,.....	5
Keeping disorderly Company.....	1
Total,.....	53

Nativity of those committed:

Illinois,.....	21
Massachusetts,.....	1
New York,	10
Pennsylvania,.....	1
District of Columbia,.....	1
Ohio,.....	1
Mississippi,.....	1
Indiana,.....	1
Michigan,.....	4
Wisconsin,.....	3
Iowa,.....	1
Canada,.....	6

Ireland,.....	1
Germany,.....	1
Total,.....	53

Their parentage is:

American,.....	9
African.....	4
English,.....	1
Irish,.....	26
German,.....	10
Scotch,.....	1
Norwegian,.....	1
Unknown,.....	1

Total..... 53

Their ages were:

Eight years.....	2
Nine ".....	1
Ten ".....	4
Eleven ".....	4
Twelve ".....	4
Thirteen ".....	14
Fourteen ".....	10
Fifteen ".....	10
Sixteen ".....	2
Seventeen years.....	1
Eighteen ".....	1

Total..... 53

Social condition of their homes:

Had lost both parents,.....	8
" " father,.....	10
" " mother,.....	12
" " Step-parents,.....	13
Intemperate fathers,.....	18
Parents were religious.....	2
" " quarreled,.....	5
" " in prison,.....	1

Average age of those committed during the year is 13 years, 1 month, 17 days.

Average number in the School during the year, 198.

Highest number in School at one time,.....	210
Lowest " " " " " 	178

WORK DEPARTMENTS.

The average number of boys employed in the different departments of the Institution during the year has been as follows:

Boot and Shoe Shop.....	24
Cane Chair Shop.....	73
Flag and Reed Chair Shop.....	12
Basket Shop.....	21
General Work Shop.....	8
Tailor Shop and Knitting Room.....	13
Garden, Green Houses and Stock.....	9
Laundry,.....	6
Carpenter Shop,.....	1
Baker Shop,.....	1
Kitchen,.....	4
Door Keepers,.....	2
General Work Department,.....	24
 Average number.....	198

LAUNDRY.

Towels	washed and ironed,.....	15,463
Pillow Slips	" "	12,313
Sheets	" "	11,627
Shirts	" "	10,070
Aprons	" "	1,150
Table Cloths	" "	881
Pairs Stockings	" "	4,176
" Pants	" "	3,049
" Blankets	" "	334
Bed Spreads	" "	156

Ticks,	washed and ironed,	27
Shirt Fronts	" "	34
Hammocks	" "	540
		—
	Total number of pieces,	59,820

SEWING ROOM AND TAILOR SHOP.

	Made.	Mended.
Jackets.....	312	1,681
Pairs Pants.....	310	5,047
" Stockings.....	303	4,372
Caps.....	122	144
Shirts.....	480	8,877
Suspenders.....	335	
Linen Curtains.....	9	2
Aprons.....	43	131
Sheets.....	205	313
Pillow Slips.....	155	110
Towels.....	495	558
Bed Spreads.....	3	75
Table Cloths.....	41	43
" Napkins.....	12	
Stand Covers.....	4	
Bed Ticks.....		40
Pillow "		11
Blankets.....		35

GENERAL WORK SHOP.

Pounds of Curled Hair Picked.....	4,169
" Beans "	10,331

BASKET SHOP.

Market Baskets made.....	5,427
Clothes " "	1,036
Flower " "	341
Dinner " "	1,073
Work " "	6
Flower Stands "	2
Large Sofa "	1

Fancy Fire Screens made.....	4
High Willow Chair “	1
Repaired “ “	2
“ Sofa.....	1
“ Work Stand.....	1

FLAG, REED AND CANE CHAIR SHOPS.

Grecian Seats caned.....	19,027
Nurse Rocker Seats caned.....	1,494
Large “ “ “	1,948
English Cottage“ “	6,664
Dining Room “ “	659
Nurse Rocker Backs “	93
Large “ “ “	95
Common Flag Chairs seated....	2,852
Fancy “ “ “	116
Common Reed “ “	1,439
Fancy “ “ “	229
Seats repaired.....	212

BOOT AND SHOE SHOP.

Pairs of Boys' Boots manufactured.....	5,865
“ Youths' “ “	276
“ Men's Shoes “	1,722
“ Boys' “ “	624
“ “ “ for Institution manufactured...	578
“ “ “ “ “ mended.....	166

FLORAL DEPARTMENT.

There has been cultivated:

Plants of every variety to the amount of.....	\$5,523 26
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GARDEN AND FARM.

Bushels of Peas.....	112
“ Beans.....	195
“ Tomatoes.....	450
“ Cucumbers.....	17
“ Sweet Corn.....	325

Bushels of Beets	94
" Parsnips.....	143
" Carrots.....	104
" Onions.....	270
" Turnips.....	215
Melons and Squash.....	3,150
Heads Cabbage.....	15,000
" Lettuce.....	2,210
Pumpkins.....	480
Pounds of Pork butchered.....	1,340

F I N A N C E S.

Inventory of Furniture, Stock and Tools on hand March 31st, 1871:

Stock and Findings in Shoe Shop.....	\$ 1,895	12
Furniture and Tools in " "	1,780	48
Stock in Basket Shop.....	1,545	85
Furniture and Tools in Basket Shop.....	105	46
Stock of Plants in Floral Department.....	5,523	26
" and Tools on Farm.....	2,299	63
" " Furniture in Chair Shop.....	543	67
" " Tools in Tailor Shop.....	486	05
Lumber and Tools in Carpenter Shop.....	395	11
Clothing, Bedding and Furniture in Laundry and Dry Room.....	362	53
Provisions & Furniture in Baker Shop and Kitchen	589	96
Goods in Store Rooms.....	3,333	21
" in Clothing Rooms.....	2,672	40
Furniture in Officers' Rooms.....	1,237	14
Books and Furniture in School and Class Rooms.	793	48
<i>Amount Forward.....</i>	<i>\$23,563</i>	<i>35</i>

	<i>Amount Forward</i>	\$23,563	35
Books and Furniture in Library, Hospital and Reception Room.....		452	82
Furniture in General Office.....		295	06
" " Superintendent's Building.....		1,468	51
" " Family 1 Building.....		456	42
" " 2 "		660	45
" " 3 & 4 "		260	98
" " 5 & 6 "		1,276	88
 Total.....		\$28,434	47

Our expenditures for the year have been as follows:

PROVISIONS.

Flour.....	\$ 3,048	27	
Corn Meal.....	96	44	
Potatoes.....	612	86	
Molasses.....	682	81	
Beans.....	25	02	
Codfish.....	90	98	
Salt.....	34	05	
Tea.....	294	19	
Vinegar.....	42	75	
Coffee.....	234	99	
Butter.....	994	33	
Rice.....	169	58	
Pepper.....	20	50	
Hops.....	4	25	
Cream Tartar.....	8	00	
Ginger.....	6	00	
Sugar.....	477	15	
Salt Pork.....	17	52	
Fresh Meat.....	1,962	75	
Lard.....	174	67	
Eggs.....	58	33	
Milk.....	21	26	
Small Groceries.....	30	72	
 <i>Amount Forward</i>		\$9,107	42

	<i>Amount Forward.....</i>	\$9,107 42
Ice.....	51 75	
Mustard.....	12 60	
Chocolate.....	25 20	
Corn Starch.....	13 28	
Fresh Fish	158 54	
Dried Apples.....	87 88	
Cinnamon.....	13 60	
Mackerel.....	27 50	
 Total.....	 \$9,497 77	

CLOTHING.

Satinets, Jeans and Cassimeres.....	\$703 78
Shirting.....	255 53
Linseys and Canvas.....	61 39
Trimmings for Caps.....	30 00
Collars and Neck-ties.....	41 10
Gloves.....	13 00
Buttons.....	38 95
Thread.....	130 35
Yarn for Stockings.....	109 25
Demims.....	62 01
Gilt Trimmings for Band Suits.....	22 15
Suspenders.....	41 58
Knit Jackets.....	48 50
Linings.....	32 94
Shoes.....	950 00
 Total.....	 \$2,540 53

HOUSEHOLD DRY GOODS.

Sheeting.....	48 98
Combs.....	4 70
Ticking.....	10 56
Table Linen.....	49 60
Crash.....	44 47
Thimbles, Pins and Needles.....	5 69
Curtains and Fixtures.....	24 16
 Total.....	 \$188 16

FURNITURE.

Beds and Bedding.....	\$74 87
Stoves and Pipe.....	402 54
Crockery and Glassware.....	138 66
Wooden Ware.....	39 83
Cutlery.....	45 80
Lamps and Lanterns.....	42 43
School Books and Furniture.....	109 55
Carpenter's Tools.....	92
Farming Tools.....	64 75
Bureaus, Tables and Chairs.....	106 90
Tinware.....	123 71
Brooms and Brushes.....	105 92
Mirrors.....	7 50
Hardware.....	62 51
Carpeting.....	35 63
Clothes Wringer.....	10 00
Door Mats.....	43 88
Washing Machines.....	28 00
Repairing Furniture.....	19 06
Oil Cloths.....	50 00
Matting.....	33 00
Furnace.....	150 00
 Total.....	\$1,695 46

LABOR BILLS AND SALARIES.

Officer's and Employee's Salaries.....	\$7,412 64
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GENERAL EXPENSES.

Soap.....	\$289 80
Washing Soda.....	42 84
Bluing.....	2 25
Repairing Wagons, Tools and Buggy.....	249 06
Hardware.....	55 96
Garden Seeds and Plants.....	63 30
Clothes Lines, Rope and Twine.....	30 60
 <i>Amount forward.....</i>	 \$733 81

<i>Amount forward.....</i>	\$733 81
Basket Shop Salaries and Furniture.....	565 69
Farm and Greenhouse Salaries.....	660 00
Live Stock.....	10 00
Starch	4 00
Harness.....	94 60
Music.....	138 00
Shoe Shop Salaries and Furniture.....	2,174 94
Blank Books and Stationery.....	106 85
Festivals and Rewards	334 71
Fodder	421 35
Sundries.....	75
Railroad Fares and Livery.....	165 25
Medicine and Medical Attendance	261 83
Stamps	44 50
Printing Annual Report, &c.....	142 00
Funeral Expenses for 1867, 1868, 1869 and 1870...	270 00
Insurance,	364 50
Teaming, Salaries, Horse Shoeing, &c.....	511 30
Windmill	97 94
Chair Shops.....	847 55
One pair Horses, Harness and Wagon,.....	495 00
Lawn Mower.....	35 00
Flower Pots.....	28 00
Horse Blankets.....	14 00
School Bell and Repairs.....	23 75
Stove Polish.....	3 50
Judges' and Clerk's fees Examining boys.....	525 00
 Total.....	 \$9,101 82

FUEL AND LIGHTS.

Hard Coal.....	\$1,389 71
Soft "	562 42
Wood	544 25
Charcoal.....	9 96
Burning Oil.....	194 46
Matches.....	15 75
 Total.....	 \$2,716 55

RÉPAIRS.

Paints, Oils and Glass.....	\$ 85 30
Lime.....	11 25
Hardware.....	14 38
Carpenter.....	184 50
Lumber.....	50 40
Plumbing.....	123 17
Mason.....	53 75
 Total.....	 \$522 75

IMPROVEMENTS.

Paints, Oils and Glass.....	\$167 76
Hardware.....	24 01
Lime.....	10 65
Lumber.....	107 40
Carpenters.....	1,078 37
Conductor Pipes.....	14 40
Addition on Work Shop Building.....	1,443 46
Lattice Work and Bridges.....	137 24
Plans and Drawings of Family Buildings.....	175 00
Building brick area round W. S. “	146 40
Roofing.....	184 50
 Total.....	 \$3,489 19

CREDIT.

Balance credit Shoe Shop.....	\$4,702 84
“ “ Chair Shops.....	3,592 54
“ “ Basket Shop.....	511 54
“ “ General Work Shop.....	174 22
“ “ Floral Department.....	350 82
“ “ Sundries.....	123 80
“ “ Teaming	38 50
“ “ Labor of boys with Masons.....	24 00
“ “ Board of Boys.....	464 68
 Amount of credits.....	 \$9,982 94

<i>Amount forward</i>	\$9,982 94
Last year's bills collected.....	2,807 06
 Total amount of credits.....	 \$12,790 00
Accounts uncollected.....	\$303 68
Lyman Page & Co.'s acc't unsettled.	4,691 00
Boys' Shoes, credited Shoe Shop....	950 00
	5,944 68
 Amount paid Comptroller.....	 \$6,845 32

DEBIT.

Provisions.....	\$9,497 77
Clothing.....	2,540 53
Household Dry Goods.....	188 16
Furniture.....	1,695 46
Labor Bills and Salaries.....	7,412 64
General Expenses.....	9,101 82
Fuel and Lights.....	2,716 55
Repairs.....	522 75
Improvements.....	3,489 19
 Total.....	*\$37,164 87
Amount of credits.....	9,982 94
 Total am't expended this year.....	\$27,181 93
Deduct old bills paid this year.....	\$335 16
" Judges' and Clerks Fees Ex.	
Boys.....	525 00
" Improvements.....	3,489 19
	4,349 35
 Current expenses this year.....	\$22,842 58

*The difference between the Comptroller's Statement and ours, is caused by Boys Shoes being credited to Shoe Shop, and charged back to expenses.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The most prominent item that comes under this heading is the addition to our Workshops. Last summer we found it absolutely necessary that we should have more shop room. The building being only one story and basement, (though originally intended for two story and basement), we therefore decided to finish the building, and thereby supply our need. The contract for the brick work we let for \$700.00, the windows and lumber we purchased and had the school carpenter do the work. The total cost of the addition 40 ft. by 100 ft. and 12 ft. high, with 8 oak top work benches, each 75 ft. long, and several closets for cane, was \$1,627.96. This gives us ample room for 100 boys; and we are now using it as a Cane Chair Shop. In addition to this we built a brick area 80 ft. long, 3 ft. high and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide, on both sides, floored it with brick laid in cement, put in 16 ventilators on purpose to dry the basement floor, and constructed sewers to carry off rain water, which added very much to the durability and usefulness of the entire building. Sundry minor improvements such as building bridges, Band stand, and covering our front fence with lattice work has added to the beauty of our grounds. We are constantly repairing, and though expecting to repair more or less every year, yet owing to the poor material used in constructing the Family buildings, they supply us with an extra quantity.

WORK DEPARTMENTS.

The Shops of the Institution have received all the attention which one of the principal reformatory agents demand. The following named shops manufacture goods for sale only:

Boot and Shoe Shop.

Cane Chair Shop.

Flag and Reed Chair Shop.

Basket Shop.

Greenhouse Department.

The following manufacture and do work for the School only :

Tailor Shop.
Knitting Shop.
Boys' Shoe Shop.
Farm.
Laundry.
Carpenter Shop.
General Work Department.

The balance credit account shows an increase of \$495 40 over last years earnings, notwithstanding a decrease of 13 in the average number of inmates. We have temporarily suspended work in our Boot and Shoe Shop, partly owing to the decrease in number of inmates and to the failure of Lyman Page & Co., which firm stills owes us for boots sold, \$4.691.00. We commence a contract with a A. G. Garfield, on April 1st, for the employment of twenty boys at Harness making, Brushes, &c., he undertaking to teach them certain branches, and paying a fixed consideration for every working day, whether work is provided or not. There is no lack of work in our Chair Shop, on the contrary, we could give employment to double the number engaged in that department.

The other Shops are equally as prosperous, if not financially, they are practically as essential in forwarding and furnishing the whatwith, and wherewith, to support those employed when discharged from the Institution.

Experience daily teaches us the importance of keeping this class steadily employed, and the more remunerative to the Institution, the better we can provide for the boy in every respect.

FINANCES.

The net expenses of the School are \$4,186.84 less than last year, and with no outstanding bills against the Institution. As previously stated, our credits are in excess of last year, which with our already large balance in the Treasury, places the monetary interests in good condition. While using the most rigid economy, we have withheld nothing that was needed for the health and comfort of the inmates. If the

good people of Chicago would come forward and help us as much influentially as they do financially, we would have a few less failures to record and a more happy and perfect reformatory.

The following table will show the cost per capita, per annum, for the maintenance of inmates in the different Institutions throughout the country, our own included, which is taken from the Annual Report of the New York Prison Association of 1869, and has also been published by a sister Institution in a neighboring State.

State.	Title.	Division of Time.		Hours of	Total Expenditures for 1868.	Cost per capita.
		Average No. of inmates in 1868.	Days.			
California.	Industrial School.	168	24	192	18	\$11352
Connecticut.	State Reform School.	251	7	4	18	\$98196
Illinois.	Chicago Reform School.	221	...	3½	15	448569
Indiana.	House of Refuge.	109	...	3½	15	25150
Kentucky.	House of Refuge.	175	...	6	13	22716
Louisiana.	House of Refuge.	180	...	150	6	129
Maine.	State Reform School.	321	20	341	6	117
Maryland.	House of Refuge.	325	...	325	6	129
Massachusetts.	State Reform School.	287	...	987	3	159
Michigan.	Nautical Reform School.	135	...	135	6½	170
Missouri.	State Indl. Schl. for Girls	239	84	273	10	156
Missouri.	House of Reformation.	268	...	173	5½	156
Missouri.	State Reform School.	143	40	173	6½	156
N. Hampshire.	House of Refuge.	86	15	101	4½	156
New Jersey.	State Reform School.	46	...	49	5	156
New York.	Catholic Protective (girls)	440	144	850	6	156
New York.	House of Refuge.	781	150	981	7	157
Ohio.	Juvenile Asylum.	506	126	632	5	157
Ohio.	Western House of Refuge	517	...	517	7½	157
Ohio.	House of Refuge.	180	27	207	6½	157
Ohio.	State Reform School.	279	...	279	4½	157
Pennsylvania.	House of Refuge (white).	412	89	501	6½	157
Pennsylvania.	House of Refuge (col'd).	190	35	295	6½	157
Rhode Island.	Western House of Refuge	168	51	219	7	157
Rhode Island.	Providence Reform School	161	51	219	9	157
Vermont.	State Reform School.	148	14	163	4½	157
Wisconsin.	State Reform School.	6508	335	7463	6½	157
Totals, averages and percentages. . .		6508	335	7463	6½	\$141

Net expense per capita this year is \$115.37. Unless our numbers increase, the cost per capita this coming year, will be largely in excess of the above. In an institution like ours, where the boys are kept in families, with accommodations for 240 and only 179 occupying them, must necessarily be more expensive. The same amount of domestic work must be done, the same amount of fuel used, nearly the same number of officers and teachers employed; repairs and other expenses are the same as if the school was full. The only saving is in clothing and provisions, and those two items could be paid from the extra earnings that would accrue. Situated as we are, I am confident that 250 boys could be properly cared for, educated, and supported, for the same net amount it would require for two hundred.

COMMITMENTS.

It will be seen by reference to the first table that a fewer number of boys have been committed since April 1st, 1870, than for several years. Until December, 1870, they were committed here by the Superior Court, if found by competent evidence to be suitable subjects for the care and discipline of such an institution. Since then what boys we have received came through the Criminal Court, indicted by a Grand Jury, tried in an open court by a Petit Jury, convicted of crime, and sent here for a definite time.

It is not our intention to decry or undervalue the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois, but we say with all due respect to that important body, that such a decision has fallen upon the youth of Illinois like a blighting pestilence, and no where has it shown itself so prominent, and so quick, in all its pernicious and fatal effects, than in the City of Chicago. The number of youthful offenders are increasing to an alarming extent. The Police, reports $\frac{2}{3}$ of the offenses against property are committed by boys. Our City Bridewell is full,* the Jail is crowded. The Police magistrates don't know what to do with the vast numbers that are arrested, and it is a continual inward struggle in the hearts of our Criminal

* 21 boys in the Bridewell, and 24 in Jail.

Court Judges, as to whether it is not more humane, and at the same time just, to allow them to go on in the path they have chosen, than to brand them with the name of a convict.

Allow me to lay before you, for comparison, the past and present way of committing boys. Previous to December, 1870, when a boy was arrested for an offence, he was first examined by the Police Magistrates, then remanded to the Superior Court, there to be examined immediately by one of the Judges as to whether he was a suitable subject or not. If on the examination of him and his parents (for the law required the presence of his parents or guardian) it was considered best for the welfare of the boy that he should come to the Institution, an order or mittimus was made out to that effect, charging him with no crime, recording no criminal proceedings against him, blotting out all previous charges, and consigning him as it were to a Boarding School, regardless of the enormity of the offence for which he was arrested. If the boy was arrested in the morning he could be enjoying the comforts of a home with us in the evening; his trial over; his record clear; his past life forgotten, (at least by us), and fairly started on the road to honesty and usefulness. The law was vindicated; justice was given to the aggrieved and the aggressor, and Charity, Love and Mercy were so entwined throughout the entire proceedings, that no evil effect was felt, from what otherwise, for the time being, tends to degrade.

At present when a boy is arrested for a petty offence, the Police Magistrate imposes a fine, which if not paid, the delinquent goes to the Bridewell to stay until liquidated, at the rate of 50 cents per day. If arrested for a higher offence, he is remanded to jail, (should he not be able to procure sufficient bail) there to stay in close companionship with the most hardened criminals until his trial, which may not come on for 4, 6 or 8 weeks, and when it does come, two-thirds of them are discharged or get their sentence suspended, but whether innocent or guilty, just as sure as they have been in jail once, just so sure, if they live, will they return to it before many weeks. This awaiting trial; idle both mentally and physically; in company; on an equal footing; sleeping in the same cell; almost eating out of the same dish, with adult confirmed

criminals, will prove their ruin, as it has thousands before them. Yet they are blamed and must suffer the penalty. Society wants them punished for something they cannot avoid under the present laws, for the boy that can serve such an apprenticeship, under such tutorage however short, and not come out three times more of a criminal than before he entered must be a saint indeed.

The system we have here in Chicago of fining young children three, four, or five dollars, is unjust, pernicious and absurd.

Unjust—1st. Because such courts are apt to run too much in *one rut*, and not give the case due consideration.

2nd. Because instead of fining the child, they should fine the parent or guardian.

3rd. Because in numerous instances parents connive at getting their children locked up for petty offences, as a method of frightening them to behave better afterwards.

Pernicious—1st. The smallness of the fine, which has no deterrent effect, thereby the oftener repeated, creates a familiarity with crime and criminal matters, which gradually hardens the child.

2nd. It propagates criminals, and sows the seed from which the child and society will reap bitter fruit.

3rd. If he cannot pay his fine, he goes to the Bridewell, there associating with all sorts of criminals, without any occupation but passing the time away drinking in crime at every breath. No wonder that nearly one-third of the inmates in the County Jail to-day are boys.

Absurd—1st. How can a child of 10, 12, or 14 years have money to pay his fine?

2nd. Nearly all the money paid for fines is got in a dishonest way, or, on the reciprocation principal, thereby spreading and aggravating the offence.

3rd. In fining and punishing the child when the parent and society are the real offenders by neglecting to apply suitable remedies.

Nearly 16 years ago, the people of Chicago, shocked at seeing so many young boys confined with old offenders, took measures to establish a Reform School. Several of you gentlemen are aware of the many difficulties and trials you had to

meet and overcome, but finally resulted in the founding of this Institution which has gradually gained strength, year after year, its past history and present standing tells very plainly that it has not failed in any respect to accomplish the work for which it was established. Yet the Chicago Reform School with its ample grounds, well arranged buildings, commodious workshops, greenhouses, schools and other reforming and elevating influences, is too often set aside, and the County Jail and City Bridewell substituted in its place, with their continual crowds of confirmed criminals, who delight in recounting their past exploits, both real and imaginary, debasing and perverting the minds of the youthful listeners, making the narrator appear to their excited imagination, a thief of no mean stamp, and his acquaintance worth cultivating.

If it is punishment that is needed, by incarcerating those young children in the Jail and Bridewell, then they are getting it with a vengeance. If it is reformation which is needed, (and the good people of Chicago know it is), let the Judges send them where reformatory measures can be applied. If neither, then let the boys run loose, their chances are better outside to escape the Spirit of Evil than when cooped up with him in a cell.

I feel ashamed when compelled to acknowledge to my fellow-workers in other states, that Illinois has taken a backward step in prison reform, and that she, out of all the Western States, sends her wards to prison as convicted felons.

In several of the Eastern States, laws have been enacted with particular reference to cover up and do away with any publicity, in the trial of youthful offenders, so that when first arrested, they can neither be confined nor tried with older criminals. Their trials precede the others, and only the interested parties are admitted into Court.

How much we need some such law in our state, only those who daily see the evils arising from our present system can tell.

A radical change is demanded, not only for the interests of the boy, but for society as well. The authorities should be required to furnish special places for the confinement of children awaiting trial, and their cases should take precedence

of all others, it is only by saving the young that we will be enabled to reduce the numbers gradually filling up our penitentiary.

This touches the future progress and well being of society, and it is impossible to urge too strongly and earnestly on the City and County Authorities the duty of putting forth every effort for the care and reformation of youthful offenders, a glance at our Police Reports, a visit to the Police Courts, Jail and Bridewell, or a short walk on the crowded thoroughfares, will convince you, "that whatever work is left undone, this great work of reformation must be done."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The more completely to carry forward the Institution on the Family Plan, we are preparing to move the desks and seats from the large school-room, to the different family buildings, there to teach each family separate, and occupy the present room as a Chapel and Sunday School.

The report of the principal teacher, herewith appended, gives full details of the educational department.

The regular morning and evening readings and devotional exercises have been continued as usual. The Sabbath Services have been interesting and profitable. We return our warmest thanks to all those who have thus assisted and encouraged us.

Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years, were observed as usual with all the feasting, cracker, cannon firing and other entertainments pertaining to those times.

The Band is still under the instruction of Mr. T. P. Westendorf, and continues in a high state of proficiency. We are constantly adding new members, owing to the others grading out, thereby necessitating continual practice. .

We again return thanks to the Publishers of the *Standard*, *Chicago Republican* and *Chicago Courier*, for a supply of papers during the entire year; also to the *Evening Journal* and *Chicago Tribune*, for a supply part of the year; to C. C. Chase, Esq., for several monthlies; to C. C. Holden, Esq., and A. R. St. John, Esq., for a donation of \$5.00 each to our

Band Fund. We trust that other Publishers will enable us to add their names to our list.

The general health of the inmates has been good. For several months during the fall and winter the hospital had no occupant, but two deaths occurred, both colored boys. For particulars see the Physician's appended report.

To all my associate officers, for their cheerful co-operation and assistance, I tender my sincere thanks.

To yourselves, gentlemen, as Managers of this Institution, let me ask you to urge and impress at every opportunity, the importance of this work, on the public mind; to solicit the influence and aid of all classes in favor of juvenile reformatories. Exhibit the same patience, kindness and forbearance in the future, as you have done in the past, relying upon the promise of Him who hath said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me."

With thanks to a kind Providence who has watched over us in sickness, and in health, and enabled us again to present for your consideration, this Fifteenth Annual Report.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT TURNER, Sup't.

TEACHER'S REPORT.

To the Superintendent of the Chicago Reform School:

The following statistics comprise the Fifteenth Annual Report of the School Department for the year ending March 31st, 1871.

Whole number under instruction at the commencement

of the year.....	203
Committed during the year.....	62

Whole number under instruction during the year.....	265
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Number that have left the School.....	86
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Present Attendance.....	179
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Attainments of those received:

IN READING.

Began in Primer.....	11
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“ First Reader.....	15
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“ Second “	12
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“ Third “	14
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“ Fourth “	6
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“ Fifth “	2
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“ History.....	2
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Total.....	62
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IN ARITHMETIC.

Not studying Arithmetic when they entered.....	30
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Commencing in Primary Arithmetic.....	22
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“ Intellectual “	5
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“ Practical “ Simple Rules.....	5
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Total.....	62
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IN GEOGRAPHY.

Not sufficiently advanced for Geography.....	37
Commencing in Primary ".....	21
" Common School ".....	4
Total.....	62

IN WRITING.

Could not write.....	39
" write easy words.....	12
" " legibly.....	11
Total.....	62

PREVIOUS ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL.

Number who said they had never attended School.....	6
Less than six months.....	14
Over six months, but less than a year.....	5
" one year, and less than two years.....	19
" two years.....	18
Total.....	62

Attainments of those who have left during the year.

IN READING.

Read in First Reader.....	8
" Second ".....	12
" Third ".....	19
" Fourth ".....	29
" Fifth ".....	12
" History.....	6
Total.....	86

IN ARITHMETIC.

Did not study Arithmetic.....	13
Studied Primary ".....	26
" Intellectual ".....	13
" Practical " through Simple Rules.....	24
" " " Fractions.....	10
Total.....	86

IN GEOGRAPHY.

Did not study Geography.....	28-
Studied Primary " to Map of North America....	20
" " " through United States,.....	17
" Advanced.....	21
 Total.....	 86

IN WRITING.

PRESENT STANDING OF THE SCHOOL.

Whole number in attendance, 179

IN READING.

Read in Analytical First Reader.....	2
" " Second ".....	42
" " Third ".....	43
" " Fourth ".....	56
" " Fifth ".....	36
Total.....	179

IN ARITHMETIC.

Do not study Arithmetic.....	6
Study Primary "	97
" Intellectual "	25
" Practical "	Simple Rules.....	17
" "	Finished Common Fractions...	12
" "	Decimal Fractions.....	12
" "	Interest and Percentage.....	10
Total.....		179

IN GEOGRAPHY.

IN WRITING.

Writing on Slates.....	30
" in Payson, Dunton & Scribner's No. 1.....	40
" " " " " " 2.....	39
" " " " " " 3.....	41
" " " " " " 4.....	29
Total.....	179

The following promotions have been made during the year:

Promoted from First to Second Readers.....	49
" " Second to Third ".....	33
" " Third to Fourth ".....	28
" " Fourth to Fifth ".....	11
" to Primary Arithmetic.....	59
" from " to Intellectual Arithmetic.....	33
" " Intellectual to Practical ".....	35
" to Primary Geography.....	44
" from " to Common-School Geography..	14

It will be observed that we have dropped the History from our list of text books. It was not found servicable as a Reader, and the necessity of constant exercise in reading and spelling, is so imperative, all the schooling that most of our boys ever receive being what they get in the limited time they are with us, it was deemed best for them that their studies should be confined to those most severely practical.

Until December, the Programme of School remained as in previous years. Then instead of four hours devoted to the whole School, by the Principal and three Assistants, Mr. Kalleen was withdrawn from the School-room to attend to other duties, and the lady teachers assumed the entire charge. With limited separate accommodations, and a limited number of teachers, it was still desirable, as far as practicable, to reduce the School to the Family system. We have not as yet been able to effect a complete separation. Families 5 and 6, and Families 2 and 3, at present recite together during the same hours.

Our Programme of School stands thus:

Families 5 and 6, recite from 10.15 A. M., to 12.15 P. M.

“ 2 and 3, “ “ 1 P. M., “ 3 P. M.

“ 1 “ “ 3.15 P. M., “ 5.15 P. M.

giving two hours to each session.

Evening Study hours have so far been conducted in the main school room, from quarter to six till quarter of eight, an officer not connected with the school room being present to maintain order. I have also spent the most of my evenings there in assisting beginners, and finishing what we were not able to do during the day. During the first two sessions of school, the Principal is in charge of the main room, at the same time hearing recitations. The fewness of numbers not engaged in recitation, makes this double duty no difficult task.

The recitations of Family One, are conducted entirely by the two Assistants, the services of the third not being especially required, and other duties demanding the attention of one.

A general oversight of the whole school Department being rigidly exacted of the Principal, I have usually taken this time for any extra duties connected directly with that interest. I have also kept up that part of general Office work that has been heretofore required of some one of the teachers, such as recording the promotions and degrades of the boys; looking after their correspondence with their friends; writing to those absent from School on Ticket of Leave; and taking the History of all new comers.

The primary intention of this change in School programme was to more effectually separate the different Families of our boys; but it has also enabled the teachers to concentrate their efforts on a few at a time, and the benefits have been very marked.

Before January a great “Revival of Letters” had commenced in the School. The two studies to which our pupils have hitherto been most adverse, Spelling and Geography, became the favorites. The boys would take their books from the school-room; place them under their pillows; carry them in their jackets to the Work Shop; and finishing their share drop down under their benches to prepare their lessons instead of rushing to the play ground. Not a book has so far been

abused or lost by this procedure, though the carelessness of our boys in this particular is usually past comment.

In this connection I would like to call your attention to the spelling classes and spelling matches as they have been conducted this winter, as especially worthy of interest in the School Department.

Some moral results have also been quite marked.

The thoughts of the boys seem to have been in a measure diverted from their mischievous plottings. One instance in particular is worthy of record. One boy, not long an inmate, whose history after he came was one continual repetition of ill-doing, showed his first disposition to do well by attempting to learn a given lesson. The reward he seemed to find in himself was the beginning of better things. However before any definite result could be attained, the Courts interfered, and "rescued him from imprisonment."

Still further, the additional confidence secured between teachers and scholars, cannot but be worth its cost.

For the future of those under our charge we venture no prediction.

We present you this statement of our work this past year, being only able to say, we have conscientiously done our best.

K. M. BISSELL,

Principal.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To the Board of Guardians of the Chicago Reform School:

GENTLEMEN—I take pleasure in submitting the following as the report of the sanitary condition of the school, for the year just ended.

The general health of the Institution has been excellent, the hospital being free from patients most of the time. No very severe acute cases having occurred during the entire year. The principal were: pneumonia, inflammatory rheumatism, bronchitis and dysentery.

A fatal termination occurred in two cases of chronic ailments which existed when the boys were admitted to the School. The first, a colored boy, Joseph Gray, thirteen years of age, died May 17th, 1870, of disease of the heart. The other, William Turner, also colored, died June 22d, 1870, of consumption of the bowels.

During the year one case of small pox occurred in the vicinity of the School. The case terminated favorably, but no symptoms occurred among the boys. The entire School was re-examined, and those not giving satisfactory evidence of vaccination, were re-vaccinated.

The supervision of the Hospital, and the care of the sick, by Mrs. Turner, has greatly contributed to my efforts in the care of the sick patients.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH P. ROSS, M. D.

Chicago, April 1st, 1871.

LETTERS FROM BOYS.

Pierceville, Ill., June 17th, 1870.

MR. TURNER,

Dear Sir:—I beg pardon for not sending my Ticket sooner. We have been quite busy but now are over the worst till harvest commences. I get along first-rate, and like to be farming. Every thing looks so nice though we need rain very much. I would like if you could let me know the names of my mother and uncles, and my exact age. I must also let you know that I have learned to plow corn, and so far have done well as regards learning the farming trade —so my boss says. I learned from M. S., that some boy had died at the School. I want to know his name. Enclosed you will find the picture of my boss, wife and children. They gave them to me so I thought I would send to you. Please send it back as I intend to take good care of it to remember them if I should be in some other place. I see M. most every day, and J. J. occasionally, but I must close as you will get tired reading such stuff.

I send love to you and the rest of the officers and boys.

Yours truly,

H.

New York, Dec. 8, 1870.

MR. TURNER,

Dear Sir:—I was very glad to hear from you all again, and much obliged for the Discharge you sent me, but nevertheless I mean to write you as long as I live. In about a year and a half I think I shall have money enough to bring my mother out West, then I shall leave New York and will give you a call. I was very much surprised to see Mr. Kalleen. He thinks I have grown very big and stout. I went around with him to show him some of our New York sights. He thinks I have a very nice place—the same I have had all the time. We are doing a large meat business. I have charge of selling meat and the commission goods and receiving sometimes. I am practicing figures, also writing and spelling. Don't you think I have improved since I wrote last?

Yours truly,

H. H.

Pierceville, Ill., Sept. 25, 1870.

MR. TURNER,

Dear Sir:—Enclosed you will find my ticket. I was mistaken. I thought it was for two months, and then we were pretty busy. I have plowed over sixty acres since fall, but I am now almost done. We have our work done for fall, except picking corn, but Mr. B. has a good many hogs and we take in a good deal of corn for them almost every day.

J. J. ran away one day, but he came back again the next crying to stay, so he is still at his old place. I like my place real well and enjoy myself and mean to be a farmer. I remain, as ever,

Yours truly,

H. H.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 13, 1870.

MR. TURNER,

Dear Sir:—Please excuse the delay in sending the Ticket. I was out of town and so it was neglected. I suppose the next will be the last to be received. I earnestly hope W's conduct may continue as good as it has been thus far. The future alone can decide that, but you, sir, have our warmest gratitude for your kindness to him and efforts in his behalf.

With many kind wishes, I remain,

Respectfully Yours,

B. M.

September 4, 1870.

MR. TURNER,

I have been waiting for a letter from you it seems to me a long time. I have been to Church and stopped at the P. O., but as I did not get any letter I thought you must have forgotten me or was too busy. So I just thought I would sit down and tell you I am all right yet, and at work. We are cutting corn and I am plowing every day. As I walk along by myself, I think of some of the hymns we used to sing at the School, and sing them to myself, following up my plow. So that shows I am full of life and business.

I remember the text Mr. W. spoke to us about two years ago. It was "Whatsoever your hands find to do, do it with your might." I used to like Mr. W's sermons better than any one else's. He used to explain them so nice with so many little stories.

Hoping to hear from you, I remain as ever,

Yours truly,

F.

FRIEND TURNER,

Dear Sir:—It being near holiday time, J. is very anxious to come to Chicago to see his friends. I have thought it would do him no harm to come, though it seems to me some of his uncle's letters make him dissatisfied. I told him I would give him \$50.00 per year, if he would stay and be contented until he was twenty-one. He has shown a disposition to do so and is making a smart boy. He has been rather hard to manage, but if he has no one to make him dissatisfied he will come out all right. He says now he has no thought but to stay with me till he is twenty-one.

I would like you to see him. He has promised to come and see you and the boys. I hope you will see an improvement in him, as we think him a very smart boy.

Very truly,
J. H. H.

December 20, 1870.

MR. TURNER,

I beg your pardon again, but we was busy, and then I am going to school every day possible, so my time is pretty well taken up with my studies, and what little chores I have to do at home. Some time ago, me and Mr. B. went to the grove on a hunting expedition, and shot eight rabbits and four squirrels: then we had thanksgiving dinners for quite awhile. Then as soon as that was over, we killed three hogs. Now we have sausage and other good eatables all the time. We have plenty of apples. I wish you would be here to dine with us. Mr. B. says if I would stay with him till I was of age, and be a good boy, he would give me \$200 and some good clothes; and if I would be a very good boy, he would give me more.

M. S. says he is going to leave his place and go to Chicago. I think if he was not a very foolish boy he would stay where he is. He has a good place as much as I know.

How did the boys enjoy Thanksgiving? We have thanksgiving every day. I am keeping every letter I get, and occasionally look them over and read them.

Write all the news about the boys, and what happens.

And oblige,
H.

February 18, 1871.

DEAR TEACHER:

I thought I would sit down after learning my lessons for to-morrow and write to you. I received your letter two or three days ago, and O, I thought so much of it, for it is the first one I ever received from you. I must ask your forgiveness for not writing before. I am sorry that I caused you to think that I thought

any harm of your correcting my faults. It was just the other way. I felt glad to have some one encourage me to do better and help me along, and I ought to be thankful for your good advice. You do not know what a good thing it is to have some one give a little friendly advice. It makes me feel stronger to go on right, and if I ever grow to be a man, I will not forget to encourage boys that are trying to form a good character.

It is getting late so I must close. Give my respects to all.

J.

September 25, 1870.

DEAR SIR:

I thought it becomes my duty to answer your kind and welcome letter which I received long ago, and was glad to hear from you. I ought to wrote to you long ago; also how is Mr. F. getting along? also I will come in about two months: also Henry likes his place yet. Are many boys getting out of school? If they were all out here it would be better; also the folks treat me good and I like my place.

From,

M. S.

February 17, 1871.

MR. TURNER,

Enclosed you will find my Ticket for renewal. I hope you will excuse me for not sending it any sooner. I have been quite sick with sore throat, but by the good attention of my boss' wife, my health is again perfect, I am proud to say. I still get along right well, go to school every day and try to learn as much as I can. We had a lady teacher, but she took diphtheria and went away; now my boss is teacher.

You ask if I go to Sunday School and Church. The Church here is german, and the Sunday School too; so I did not go yet, only to Church, but I don't get much good of it. It has rained all day, and, by the way, the wind howls, it must be an awful night. It is just 9 o'clock, so I shall say good night.

Give my respects to the boys and write soon again, and give me all the news, haps and mishaps.

Your obedient servant,

H. H.

Belvidere, Ill., Aug. 5.

MR. TURNER,

I received your letter two weeks ago, but have been so busy for a month that I could get but little time to write, and was too tired then. We have been harvesting, but we have only about a third crop this year. It has been a very dry season. In June the farmers a little north of us had to buy hay for their cattle, and

HV
9106
C42
C45
15th
1875
Rare
BK Rm

around us they were obliged to feed. Fortunately Mr. H. had bought a lot of slew land this spring, and so we had good pasture for our sheep and other stock when our neighbors were not so well off. Our stock kept fat and nice, when they wanted to sell.

When mowing time came I found it quite difficult to do. I broke the mowing machine one day, because the grass was so thin on a piece of ground where I was obliged to drive fast.

I have grown considerable, and have worked faithful through harvest, and before; before sunrise, and till dark, but I am not tired of farming, and remain as ever,

Yours truly,

J. F.

